

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling insertion of a plurality of local spots into a program feed through a central site server located at a central control site, the method comprising:

prior to playout of the program feed, distributing the plurality of local spots from the central site server to one or more remote site servers located at one or more corresponding remote sites relative to the central control site;

sending a plurality of control parameters from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers, the plurality of control parameters including one or more parameters specifying requirements for availability of the local spots on the central site server to the one or more remote servers to allow playout of the local spots;

transmitting the program feed from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers; and

each of the remote site servers automatically switching between playout of the program feed and playout of each local spot in accordance with the plurality of control parameters received from the central site server located at the central control site.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein:  
 the program feed comprises one of a cable feed or a network feed; and  
 each local spot comprises one of local advertising or a local announcement.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the central site server is in communication with each of the remote site servers through a plurality of types of distribution network links, wherein the program feed is transmitted via one type of network link, and the local spots are distributed via a different type of network link.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein ~~one or more of the remote sites servers comprises a video server~~ one of the types of network links is a terrestrial link and the other of the types of network links is a satellite link.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 22, wherein sending a plurality of control parameters includes sending uplink parameters, scheduler parameters, and storage parameters for controlling distribution of the program feed and the plurality of local spots from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers through the distribution network.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein:  
 the uplink parameters include one or more of an uplink broadcast transmission, an uplink forward, or an uplink look-ahead;

the scheduler parameters include one or more of a transmission lookahead window, a staging lookahead window, a station in a box (SIB) playtime lookahead window, an SIB spot high water mark, an SIB spot low water mark, a searchable length of transmit queue, a searchable length of a staging queue, a playlist transmission lookahead, a minimum transmit time, an SIB timeout limit, a history retention period; and

the storage parameters include one or more of playlist entries, purgelist entries, a playlist retention period, a purgelist retention, a dead on arrival (DOA) retention period.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) A computer program product tangibly stored on a computer readable medium for controlling insertion of a plurality of local spots into a program feed through a central site server located at a central control site, the product comprising instructions to cause a programmable processor to:

prior to playout of the program feed, distribute the plurality of local spots from the central site server to one or more remote site servers located at one or more corresponding remote sites relative to the central control site;

send a plurality of control parameters from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers, the plurality of control parameters including one or more parameters specifying requirements for availability of the local spots on the central site server to the one or more remote servers to allow playout of the local spots; and

transmit the program feed from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers,

wherein the product further comprises instructions for each of the remote site servers to automatically switch between playout of the program feed and playout of each local spot in accordance with the plurality of control parameters received from the central site server located at the central control site.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein:  
the program feed comprises one of a cable feed or a network feed; and  
each local spot comprises one of local advertising or a local announcement.

30. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the central site server is in communication with each of the remote site servers through a plurality of types of distribution network links, and wherein the program feed is transmitted via one type of network link, and the local spots are distributed via a different type of network link.

31. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein ~~one or more of the remote site servers comprises a video server~~ one of the types of network links is a terrestrial link and the other of the types of network links is a satellite link.

32. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein the instructions to send a plurality of control parameters include instructions to send uplink parameters, scheduler parameters, and storage parameters for controlling distribution of the program feed and the plurality of local spots from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers through the distribution network.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently amended) A digital media distributor (DMD) for controlling insertion of a plurality of local spots into a program feed through a central site server located at a central control site, the digital media distributor (DMD) comprising:

a central site server to distribute the plurality of local spots to one or more remote site servers located at one or more corresponding remote sites relative to the central control site, the plurality of local spots being transmitted from the central site server prior to playout of the program feed, the central site server to further send a plurality of control parameters to each of the one or more remote site servers and transmit the program feed to each of the one or more remote site servers, the plurality of control parameters including one or more parameters specifying requirements for availability of the local spots on the central site server to the one or more remote servers to allow playout of the local spots; and

each of the one or more remote site servers to automatically switch between playout of the program feed and playout of each local spot in accordance with the plurality of control parameters received from the central site server located at the central control site.

36. (Previously Presented) The digital media distributor (DMD) of claim 35, wherein:  
the program feed comprises one of a cable feed or a network feed; and  
each local spot comprises one of local advertising or a local announcement.

37. (Currently amended) The digital media distributor (DMD) of claim 36, further comprising a plurality of types of distribution network links through which the central site server is in communication with each of the remote site servers, and wherein the program feed is transmitted via one type of network link, and the local spots are distributed via a different type of network link.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently amended) The digital media distributor (DMD) of claim 37, wherein the plurality of control parameters includes uplink parameters, scheduler parameters, and storage parameters for controlling distribution of the program feed and the plurality of local spots from the central site server to each of the one or more remote site servers through the distribution network, and wherein the control parameters include a time window limit parameter that sets a time period requirement prior to a scheduled playout of each of the local spots at which time the local spot must be staged on the central site server for reception by the one or more remote site servers.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the control parameters include a staging lookahead window parameter that sets a time period requirement prior to a scheduled playout of each of the local spots at which time the local spot must be staged on the central site server for reception by the one or more remote site servers.

42. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the control parameters include a playtime lookahead window parameter that sets a time period requirement before the scheduled playout of a local spot at which time each of the remote site servers checks to report to the central server a local spot missing at the remote site server.

43. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the control parameters include a minimum transit time parameter that indicates a minimum transit time needed to transmit a particular one of the local spots to one or more remote site servers, such that when the remote site servers determine that a time until a next scheduled playout of the particular local spot is less than the minimum transit time, the local spot is considered to be dead.

44. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the control parameters include a staging lookahead window parameter that sets a time period requirement prior to a scheduled playout of each of the local spots at which time the local spot must be staged on the central site server for reception by the one or more remote site servers.

45. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the control parameters include a playtime lookahead window parameter that sets a time period requirement before the scheduled playout of a local spot at which time each of the remote site servers checks to report to the central server a spot missing at the remote site server.